

CLAIMS

1. A reproducing apparatus capable of receiving and reproducing a broadcast signal selected by calling a reception frequency set in advance, characterized by comprising:

    broadcast signal reception means for receiving a broadcast signal of a specific frequency;

    broadcast signal reproducing means for reproducing the broadcast signal received by the broadcast signal reception means;

    setting information transmission means for transmitting setting information concerning broadcast reception of the reproducing apparatus itself and set by a user, to an external device;

    list information reception means for receiving list information detected by the external device, as a list including broadcast station names of receivable broadcast stations corresponding to the setting information, broadcast station identification information of the stations, and frequencies of the stations;

    display means for displaying the names of the broadcast stations included in the list information received by the list information reception means; and

    recording means for recording parts of the received list information onto a recording medium, based on a user's input, with the parts linked to each other.

2. The reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising frequency specify means for varying the reception frequency of the broadcast signal reception means to specify a frequency at

which the broadcast signal is received, the apparatus characterized in that

the recording means records such a frequency that agrees with any of the frequencies included in the list information received by the list information reception means, among frequencies specified by the frequency specify means, and at least a broadcast station name and broadcast station identification information in the list information, onto the recording medium, with the frequency, broadcast station name, and broadcast station identification information automatically linked to each other.

3. The reproducing apparatus according to claim 2, characterized in that the recording means further records remaining frequencies that disagree with the frequencies in the list information received by the list information reception means, among the frequencies specified by the frequency specify means, and at least remaining broadcast station names and remaining broadcast station identification information in the list information, onto the recording medium, with the remaining frequencies, the remaining broadcast station names, and the remaining broadcast station identification information linked to each other based on a user's input.

4. The reproducing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising request information transmission means for transmitting request information requesting the list information including information concerning another broadcast station than those corresponding to the setting information, in response to a user's

operation, after receipt of the list information by the list information reception means, the apparatus characterized in that the list information reception means receives the list information transmitted from the external device in response to the request information,

the display means displays broadcast station names included in the list information corresponding to the request information, and

the recording means records parts of the list information corresponding to the request information onto the recording medium, based on a user's input, with the parts linked to each other.

5. The reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the setting information has been inputted in advance by the user and recorded.

6. The reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the setting information is inputted by the user immediately before being transmitted by the transmission means.

7. The reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the setting information includes area information indicative of an area where the reproducing apparatus receives broadcasts.

8. The reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized by further comprising:

identification information transmission means for transmitting the broadcast station identification information included in the list information recorded by the recording means, to the external device; and

position information reception means for receiving, from the external device, position information indicative of a position of a provider on a network, which provides related information related to broadcast contents of broadcast stations corresponding to the broadcast station identification information transmitted from the identification information transmission means.

9. An information setting method of setting a reception frequency in advance in a reproducing apparatus which receives and reproduces a broadcast signal, characterized by comprising:

a setting information transmission step of transmitting setting information concerning broadcast reception of the reproducing apparatus itself and set by a user, to an external device;

a list information reception step of receiving list information detected by the external device, as a list including broadcast station names of receivable broadcast stations corresponding to the setting information, broadcast station identification information of the stations, and frequencies of the stations;

a display step of displaying the names of the broadcast stations included in the received list information; and

a recording step of recording parts of the received list information onto a recording medium, based on a user's input, with the parts linked to each other.

10. The information setting method according to claim 9, further comprising a frequency specify step of varying the frequency to be received, to specify a frequency at which a broadcast signal is

received, before the recording step, the method characterized in that in the recording step, such a frequency that agrees with any of the frequencies included in the list information received in the list information reception step, among frequencies specified in the frequency specify step, and at least a broadcast station name and broadcast station identification information in the list information, onto the recording medium, with the frequency, broadcast station name, and broadcast station identification information automatically linked to each other.

11. The information setting method according to claim 10, characterized in that in the recording step, remaining frequencies that disagree with the frequencies in the list information received in the list information reception step, among the frequencies specified in the frequency specify step, and at least remaining broadcast station names and remaining broadcast station identification information in the list information are further recorded onto the recording medium, with the remaining frequencies, the remaining broadcast station names, and the remaining broadcast station identification information linked to each other based on a user's input.

12. The information setting method according to claim 11, further comprising an unreceived-information request step of requesting the external device to transmit the list information including information concerning another broadcast station than those corresponding to the setting information, after the recording step, the method

characterized in that

the list information reception step, the display step, and the recording step are further executed with use of the list information transmitted from the external device in response to the unreceived-information request step.

13. A communication method characterized in that a reproducing apparatus which receives and reproduces a broadcast signal transmits setting information concerning broadcast reception of the reproducing apparatus itself, together with user ID and a password, to a portal server,

the portal server which issues an authentication ticket to allow the reproducing apparatus to access plural service servers performs an authentication processing, based on the user ID and the password, and transmits list information as a list including broadcast station names of receivable broadcast stations corresponding to the setting information, broadcast station identification information of the stations, and frequencies of the stations, when allowing authentication, and

the reproducing apparatus displays the broadcast station names included in the received list information, and records parts of the received list information, onto a recording medium, based on an input, with the parts linked to each other.

14. An information setting program for making a computer execute a processing of setting a reception frequency of a broadcast signal, comprising:

a setting information transmission step of transmitting setting information concerning broadcast reception of the reproducing apparatus itself and set by a user, to an external device,

a list information reception step of receiving list information as a list including broadcast station names, broadcast station identification information, and frequencies of receivable broadcast stations corresponding to the setting information,

a display step of displaying the broadcast station names in the received list information, and

a recording step of recording parts of the received list information onto a recording medium, based on a user's input, with the parts linked to each other.